

~~SECRET~~ INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Construction of Fortifications in Albania

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1. Under supervision of Soviet and Yugoslav experts, numerous fortifications are being constructed throughout Albania. Fortifications are reported under construction in the following regions:

a. Between the mouth of the Shkumbin River, on the Adriatic Sea, and the lakes of Ochrida and Prespa.

b. Along the hills overlooking the following roads:

1. Tirana-Fier-Vlone-Gjinokaster-Delvine-Konispol;
2. Tirana-Berat-Permet-Leskovic;
3. Gjinokaster-Kakavje;
4. Gjinokaster-Gjorcugat-Delvine-Sarande-Konispol;

c. On the Adriatic coast, between Sarande and Konispol, and in the Llogarata Hills, between Vlone and Himara.

d. In the Epirus Mountains, in the immediate vicinity of the Greek frontier.

2. Other defense preparations include an air base near Lake Butrintit; anti-aircraft installations along principal roads and railroads; and the construction of military roads along the coast.

3. All persons between the ages of 14 and 19 are subject to compulsory military training twice a week, while all persons over 19 years of age may be drafted.

4. Twenty "emergency battalions", composed of workers and students, have been formed. Members of these battalions continue on inactive status, but are subject to call on twenty-four hours notice.

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